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No. 44.

GREAT NEWS FROM THE KING IN FLANDERS,

GIVING A

Full and True Account

OF THE

PRESENT STATE

OF THE

Confederate and French Armies.

In a LETTER to a FRIEND.

12. Aug. 1691.

SIR,

I Have very much long'd to ſend you my Acknowledgments for good News, but things have not Anſwered our Expectation; yet the *French* will not come to a Battel, for they are as fearful of the *King, as a Child is of a Rod*; as ſoon as e'er the King comes nigh, ſtill they go away.

On *Friday* Morning, about nine of the Clock, the King had notice that the *French Army Decamped from Florinneſs* the Night before, and were on their March towards *Beaumont*: At ten of the Clock ours had Orders to Decamp, and March, but to leave our Baggage behind us; by Eleven the whole Army, Horſe and Foot, were actually on their March, and the *King in the Van of them*; between Two and Three we came up to *Beaumont*, in the *full ſight of all the French Army*, which lay incamped on a Hill: and both ſides very Steep and Rocky; at the bottom of it was a deep Miry Ditch, not paſſable: The King and General Officers ſpent that Afternoon in *going from place to place* to ſee it, and to find out the beſt place from it, for our Army to paſs at, and at two ſeveral places we pitched our Bridges; but the *French* made Batteries there, and it was with Diſadvantage; but the Night coming on, the King could not viſit more

more of the Valley, till next Morning; the Armies lay down in the Fields, as did every Body elſe; the King himſelf eat in *a great Barn full of Corn and Hay, and then lay down upon ſome of it. The next Morning*, at break of Day, he was on Horſe-back again, and went accordingly towards the *French* Camp, to ſee what places there were for our Men to paſs; but found them ſuch as no Man could have Climb'd had there been no Oppoſition.

On *Saturday* Noon, the *French* began to play their Cannon, but did very little, or no hurt; there were three Killed, *one was a Dutch-Man*, one of our Garducorps, the other two *Spaniards*, ſo at the Evening we returned to our Camp again at *Cour*, which is five Engliſh Miles from them; but the King is in hopes to meet with them as ſoon as ever they come out of their Dens: Our Out-Guards and theirs are every day picquiering at one another. We have abundance of Deſerters come in to us, and we have taken abundance of them Priſoners, a Foraging; and we hear, a great many more will come if they can get Opportunity; there were *two Hundred gotten* into a Wood to come away, but the *French* had notice, and have got moſt of them back again; and ſince, we hear they are mighty buſie at Hanging them.

But if the King cannot poſſibly get them to *Battel*, it is thought he will Beſiege ſtill ſome Town, for we have Army enough to Cover and Beſiege, and fight in the Field; our Army conſiſts of near a Hundred Thouſand Men, and you would not imagine the *pains our good King takes*; he is mightily Concerned, he cannot get to Fight them: The very Name of the King being at the Head of this Army, puts the *French* into a great Conſternation, inſomuch, that they have made ſuch a Law, that whoſoever ſhall ſay, *the King of* England *is at the Head of the Army*, *is preſent Death*.

We hear the Duke of *Berwick* is got into the *French* Army, but in a very poor Equipage; he is in no Command of any thing.

We have had very great Rejoycing in the Army, for the Conqueſt in *Ireland*; God be thanked, the Work is almoſt done there.

I could wiſh with all my Heart, I could ſend ſuch News, as would make Engliſh Hearts Rejoyce; but thanks be to God, we do hunt them up and down; we have the pleaſure of that. It makes the King Smile to ſee the poor Dogs, what a fuge they be in, and always a getting under their Garriſons, and under their Cannon; and where ever they come, they cannot Sleep for fear, and always at work to Intrench themſelves.

So having no more at preſent, but hoping to give you a better Account by *Michaelmaſs*, which is all from

From the Camp at Cour in Flanders, *Aug. the* 3*d*, 1691.

Your humble Servant, &c.

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